

Living Connections Bible Study



Source of Joy

Text: John 2:1-11

Prayer

Icebreaker:

There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which only our Creator can fill.

Make a list of things people turn to in trying to find joy and satisfaction in life?

1. How had Judaism failed to bring joy and fulfillment to its followers? And how did the ministry of John the Baptist's bring the age of Law to an end by introducing Jesus the Lamb of God to Israel?

Luke 16:16a

John 1:11; 19-24

John 1:17

Galatians 4:4-5

2. What was the occasion of Jesus' first miracle and what is the significance of Jesus being invited to this event? John 2:1-2; Ecclesiastes 4:12

3. What embarrassing thing happened that threatened to rob this occasion of its joy? John 2:3

Throughout the Bible both the Hebrew and Greek words translated *wine* may refer to fermented or unfermented drink made from the juices of grapes and other fruits. This causes much confusion unless we examine the Bible context where the word is used. Where intoxicating wine is in view there are passages that speak of such as strong drink, a curse and there are warnings against its use. Intoxicating wine is a symbol of corruption and God's judgment. But in other passages where unfermented, nonalcoholic drink is in view wine is a symbol of blessing, mercy, and joy from God.

4. How is unfermented wine a symbol of joy in the following passages?

Psalm 104:14-15

Judges 9:13

Isaiah 55:1-3

5. When Mary came to Jesus to meet this need how did Jesus demonstrate that the relationship between Him and His mother had now changed with the start of His ministry? John 2:4a

6. What do the following verses teach us about this most important hour to which Jesus refers? John 2:4b; 7:6, 30; 12:23, 27; 13:1

7. What good advice did Mary give the household servants? John 2:5; Philippians 4:19

Jesus sees a connection between the water and the wine, though we may not. We may miss out on the blessings and the miracles of God's grace if we are prone to question rather than believe and obey.

8. How are the 6 stone water pots a fitting illustration of the failure of Judaism to find joy through the ceremonial laws of Moses and the traditions of their spiritual forefathers? John 2:6; Mark 7:1-7

9. How is enthusiastic and complete obedience demonstrated or expressed in the following passages? John 2:7; 2 Kings 5:9-10, 14; Ecclesiastes 9:10; Proverbs 3:5-6; James 5:16; 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Corinthians 10:13-14; 1 Thessalonians 5:22; Romans 12:1

10. After the servants refilled the empty water pots which contained approximately 150 gallons of water needed for washing dirty hands, feet and dishes at the wedding celebration, what further instructions did Jesus give to the servants?

11. What wonderful discovery and conclusion did the master of ceremonies come to? John 2:9-11

Think about it this week:

What a delightful surprise! The master of ceremonies had just sampled the best wine he had ever tasted. This was no intoxicating liquor, made from the mash of rotting grapes. This was the perfect blend of sweet succulent fruits as if freshly squeezed from the hand of the Creator Himself. The first wine, which ran out, was like Kool-Aid compared to this heavenly punch.

Would Jesus make intoxicating wine available in such abundant supply for all the wedding guests? Wouldn't this be contrary to His instructions not to set a stumbling block before others?

Romans 14:12-13, 21